

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /093 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION THAT CIA MONEY PAID TO AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION
PARTIES

REF: CANBERRA 6227

1. SPECULATION BY CANBERRA JOURNALIST RAY AITCHISON, THAT CIA MONEY MAY HAVE BEEN PAID TO ANTI-SOCIALIST OPPOSITION PARTIES DURING RECENT ELECTIONS, HAS RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION SINCE COMMENTS FIRST MADE PUBLIC SEPT 23 (REFTEL). AMBASSADOR FORMALLY DENIED REPORT SEPT 24.

2. BOOK IN WHICH AITCHISON SPECULATION MADE, "LOOKING AT THE LIBERALS", WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN MELBOURNE SEPT 29. FORMER LIBERAL PRIMINISTER WILLIAM MCMAHON (WHO HELD OFFICE 1971-72) REFERRED TO AITCHISON CHARGES IN FOL WORDS: "I CAN ASSURE YOU WE WOULD NEVER ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THEM (I.E., THE CIA)--NOR HAVE THEY EVER BEEN OFFERED. AND I CERTAINLY KNOW, BECAUSE IN THE TIME I WAS THERE, I HAD TO COLLECT THE FUNDS MYSELF AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM." BOOK ITSELF IS ANTHOLOGY OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY LIBERAL PARTY AND OTHER OFFICIAL FIGURES, EXAMINING STATE OF PARTY AT PRESENT AND IN PAST.

3. COMMENT: WE WILL HAVE A LOOK AT BOOK, BUT DOUBT IT REALLY
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SAYS MUCH ON ANY SUBJECT. AITCHISON SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINED

CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY FOR BOOK WITH HIS COMMENTS TO MEDIA
SEPT 23, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN WHOLE OBJECT OF EXERCISE. AITCHISON
WAS INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION
SEPT 28, RECEIVING 154 VOTES OUT OF 41,107 CAST IN SOUTHERN
CANBERRA ELECTORATE. BOOK AND SENSATIONAL CHARGES IN IT
EVIDENTLY WERE NO HELP TO HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS.
GREEN

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